

Welcome to Renton!

Today is a historic day in Renton! Today I am joined by all the current residents of Renton to welcome our new neighbors from the Cascade/Benson Hill area into our family. This is an exciting moment – this annexation is the largest in Renton's 106-year history and Renton has grown today by over 25 percent! We are now a 22-square-mile urban community, home to 76,000 residents and over 40,000 jobs.

Renton has a strong history of welcoming neighborhoods and communities who choose to be part of our city. We have worked hard to make this city the center of opportunity in the Puget Sound region and are committed to keeping our community a special place. With this annexation, the Benson Hill communities will receive local government services from the City of Renton instead of King County. We are known for our police and fire protection, superior street maintenance, libraries, parks, recreational opportunities, neighborhood programs, thriving business opportunities, wonderful restaurant choices, a variety of shopping experiences, and more.

We have taken several steps to ensure that we provide the highest levels of service and maintain a high quality of life for all our residents and businesses. We are hiring over 90 employees in order to serve a larger city. We've entered into an agreement with King County Fire District 40 for the City of Renton to be the fire and emergency service provider for the entire District, including Fairwood. The Renton Police Department has added staff and expanded its patrol districts and will now respond to calls in the Benson Hill area as well as the other parts of the city. We worked closely with the King County Library System (KCLS) so that all residents can use the Renton libraries or choose to continue to use KCLS. Benson Hill residents can enjoy all the parks and recreation services in Renton and qualify for the lower resident fees. We are working to ease the transition for policies and processes for building permits, zoning requirements, code compliance regulations and more.

I invite you to join me and other city staff at an informational open house on Saturday, March 8, 9:00 a.m. to noon, at Lindbergh High School, 16426 128th Ave SE, Renton. This is a great opportunity to join your neighbors, meet other Renton area residents, and learn more about the services and resources offered by the City of Renton.

If you have questions about annexation, city issues, events and activities, you can browse the city's website, [rentonwa.gov](http://rentonwa.gov), which is packed with useful information. You can also call the city's general information number at (425) 430-6400.

We all know Renton as a city that brims with prosperity, livability and opportunity for all. We have built a solid community and are thrilled to welcome the Benson Hill Communities to Renton. We are in an excellent position to respond to future needs and ensure that the city continues to be an outstanding place to live, learn, work and play.

Sincerely,

Denis Law  
Mayor

*This letter originally appeared in the March 1 issue of the Renton Reporter.*